

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
February 27, 2017 at 7:35 p.m.

All members of Council were present, Manager Allen, Solicitor Haas, Auditor Trent Williams and City Clerk Ratliff.

1. **Disbursement of Hotel/Motel Funds** **CM-17-24**

Manager Allen said that \$60,000 was put into the budget every year to the tourism and \$20,000 to Cultural Affairs which were just base appropriations. The actual amount for the Cultural Affairs is not known until after February 10th because this year’s money was money collected for last year. Whatever was collected 33 1/3% goes to the Cultural Affairs committee to decide how to distribute.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #1

There were no further questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

Auditor Williams asked that the monies be expedited and Mayor Kalb said that he believed the wording was included.

2. **Restrictions for Condemned Houses** **CM-17-25**

Manager Allen said that the Probation Department, Police Department, Health Department and his office had been going out for the past month hitting the problem areas. They’ve checked on houses that were condemned and numerous arrest have been made due to people being in houses they were not supposed to be in due to the condemned status. There was one in Sciotoville and a house on Mabert Road where a 6 year old child was located (deceased). He said that once a house was condemned, people wait for the City to leave the premises and then they return to the house, either living in them or dealing drugs from them. He stated that they have gone out around 9:00-10:00 p.m. and people were in the houses eating but when they police pulled them out. They gave excuses such as they were fixing up the house or cleaning it out, yet the house looked as bad if not worse than before and in some cases there was illegal activity taking place. He recommended an ordinance that stated people were allowed to go back into a condemned house between the hours of 8:00 – 5:00 with a permit from the Health Department. He said if the people were located in the house other than the times given then they would be charged and Solicitor Haas added that he believed that it would be a Misdemeanor One. Mr. Gedeon of the Health Department added that the Police arrested a gentleman for trespassing when they found him in a house on Gallia Street that had been condemned, the Police returned two weeks later and found the same gentleman, but he gave the excuse that he was working on a water line. Manager Allen said this would be a tool to help get these people out of these houses. Solicitor Haas outlined the way the program would work: 1. House would be condemned and placard placed on the house showing “condemned” 2. Before anyone can return to the house, they must purchase a permit from the Health Department which will show the hours that they can be in the house. 3. If someone was caught outside of those hours, then they would be arrested and charged. 4. If it is legitimate and a person works midnights and can’t fix it up between the hours of 8:00-5:00 then it would be up to Mr. Gedeon at the Health Department to set the hours on a case by cases basis. 5. Once a property was condemn there are time restraints and the people only have a certain amount of time to make repairs. Manager Allen said there will be a list given to the Police Department and they will keep an eye on the properties on their regular patrol. Councilwoman Aeh ask who to call if a neighbor witnesses someone entering a condemned property and she was told to call the Police.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #1

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

3. **Resolution strongly opposing Governor's State Budget**

CM-17-26

Manager Allen said cities and municipalities in all of Ohio have been asked to pass this legislation and send it to the State House. He said that while he was at the City Manager's conference provided a legislative update and everyone was urged to have their Council's to send this objection. Manager Allen went over some of the changes: 1. The State has already taken half of the local government fund and the remaining portion was based on a percent of the State's revenues and now that has been capped. He said they've come up with a formula which was similar to the State School funding and based on our taxing capacity. He said that we would receive a benefit and more money, but right now there's programs where there were "winners" and "losers" and they were pitting municipalities against each other. He said it was a weird formula and communities would be hurt. 2. He said they would take and centralize some of the income tax collection and keep one percent of that as a fee. The scary thing was that it may not affect us as much because the part that would be collected by the state was the Business profits and there's not a lot of industry in Portsmouth. The municipal income tax that is collected on these profits would no longer be a local income tax but would be called a State Income Tax which means if the State's budget goes south in the next recession they would probably keep all of that money. It was predicted that the local money would be gone within five years. We would be opposing the State collecting the income tax, re-categorizing it instead of a municipal tax it would be a State Income Tax and the throw-back provision which doesn't affect us as much as a community that had a lot of warehouses and storage. There would be some suburbs that would be devastated. They talked about the taxing on Amazon facilities who had talked about setting up shop in Wilmington, Ohio and he thought maybe that was why Amazon had chosen Northern Kentucky over Ohio.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #1

There were no further questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

4. **Six Month Moratorium on Medical Marijuana**

CM-17-27

The state still does not have the rules and regulation in place and this legislation would extend the moratorium until the state issues the regulations, then it would be up to City Council whether to permit it or not. Councilman Meadows stated that he had heard that it was going to be September 2018 before any rules or regulations would be in place and Solicitor Haas said that he had heard May of 2017. Mr. Meadows said that if it was going to be at least 2018 the Resolution should be for at least a year.

Councilman Kevin W. Johnson motioned to accept Alternative #1

There were no questions or comments: **VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Kevin W. Johnson

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk